



# Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Assn., Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



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October 18, 2006

Ms. Rose Hargrave  
Policy Director  
CENWD-PDM  
12565 West Center Road  
Omaha, NE 68144-3869

Dear Ms. Hargrave:

Lower Yellowstone REA is a long-term purchaser of hydropower generated in the Missouri River Basin under the Pick-Sloan Program. Nearly one-third of the electricity that our member-customers use is Pick-Sloan Power. Our consumers are bearing increasing costs, not only from long-term drought but also from changes in operations. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the "Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee".

Our members actually live between two of the upstream main-stem dams and are stewards of the ecological and economic well being of this region. In their electric rates they actually pay a share of the costs of the recovery efforts. In order to expedite the process, we feel that using most of 2007 to develop the committee is just too long.

In addition, I have concerns about the make up of the committee. I feel that both upstream and downstream power interests need to be represented as well as all Pick-Sloan project purposes. Also, I am concerned that representation will become unbalanced if the special interest community groups are not grouped together under existing categories, i.e. recreation or conservation. In addition, I believe that committee appointments should be made by the Secretary of Interior since it is organized under that authority.

I'm sure that my concerns parallel those of the Midwest Electric Consumers Association of which we are members. I would encourage you to work with Midwest and Tom Graves as they are very representative of the federal Pick-Sloan power customers.

I realize that coming up with the solutions to adaptive management of the Missouri River is not an easy task. I appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with yourselves and other agencies as the process continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allen D. Thiessen".

Allen D. Thiessen  
President